

1 FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

2 COUNTY OF MAUI

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7 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

8 REGULAR MEETING

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13 Held via BlueJeans, commencing at 10:00 a.m., on
14 June 16, 2022.

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19 REPORTED BY: SANDRA J. GRAN, RPR/CSR #424

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ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kyle Ginoza, Chair

Lisa Vares, Vice Chair

Dwight Burns, Member

Donna Sterling, Member

Punahale Alcon, Member

Max Kincaid, Jr., Member

Dylan Andrion, Member

STAFF:

Bradford Ventura, Fire Chief

Gavin Fujioka, Deputy Fire Chief

Jeffrey Giese, Assistant Fire Chief

Hanalei Lindo, Assistant Fire Chief

Daniel Kunkel, Deputy Corporation Counsel

Richelle Wakamatsu, Commission Secretary

Herman Andaya, Maui Emergency Management Agency

1 (June 16, 2022, 10:00 a.m.)

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3 CHAIR GINOZA: Good morning, everyone. It is 10:00,
4 June 16th. I'd like to call to order the Maui County Fire and
5 Public Safety Commission meeting. My name is Kyle Ginoza. I
6 am chair of the commission. So I call the meeting to order,
7 and let's take roll call. Please, when commissioners mention
8 where -- whether they're present, please mention where you're
9 located and if anybody is in the room with you.

10 Vice Chair Lisa Vares.

11 VICE CHAIR VARES: Lisa Vares present. I'm in my
12 office, and there's currently no one in the room with me,
13 although I do have one child home with me today.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Lisa.

15 Dwight Burns.

16 COMMISSIONER BURNS: I am currently home on my
17 patio. There's nobody here with me this morning.

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Dwight.

19 Punahale Alcon.

20 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Present. At home alone.

21 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Punahale.

22 Max Kincaid Jr.

23 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Present. I have my wife
24 here.

25 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

1 And it looks like you're at home.

2 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yes.

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Dylan Andrion.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDRION: Present at home and alone.

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Dylan.

6 And Makalapua was not able to make it with us today,
7 so she's not here.

8 Next I'd like to move on to the fire department.
9 Chief Ventura, who is with you?

10 CHIEF VENTURA: Aloha and good morning, everybody.
11 Here in the conference room is myself, Deputy Fujioka, Deputy
12 Giese, and Richelle Wakamatsu, commission secretary, off the
13 camera here. Also with us today but remotely, we have
14 Assistant Chief Lindo remotely and operations manager ocean
15 safety Cary Kayama remotely with us as well.

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

17 And we have Dan with us from corporation counsel. I
18 believe we have Herman as well.

19 MR. KUNKEL: Aloha.

20 CHAIR GINOZA: Good morning, Dan.

21 MR. KUNKEL: Good morning.

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Herman, are you there too?

23 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Oh, yes, Chair, I'm here.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay, great. Thank you.

25 Next, let's move on to public -- oh, sorry, approval

1 of the minutes from the May 19th meeting. I hope
2 commissioners have been able to review the minutes, and does
3 anybody have any comments on the minutes that were received?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, could I have
6 a motion to approve the minutes from May 19th?

7 COMMISSIONER ANDRION: So moved. This is Dylan.

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Dylan.

9 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Second.

10 CHAIR GINOZA: And a second. Thank you. Dwight
11 seconds. So I'll go -- I'll do a roll call vote.

12 So, Lisa.

13 VICE CHAIR VARES: So moved.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Dwight.

15 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Yeah, I move.

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Punahale.

17 COMMISSIONER ALCON: (Gesturing.)

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Max Kincaid, Jr.

19 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: (Gesturing.)

20 CHAIR GINOZA: Dylan.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDRION: Aye.

22 CHAIR GINOZA: And I approve as well.

23 So all six of us approve the minutes, so they're
24 approved.

25 Oh, I forgot to mention, I'm located in Makena in my

1 office, and I'm alone.

2 Next, we'll move on to public testimony.

3 Richelle, do we have anyone signed up to testify?

4 MS. WAKAMATSU: Not on my end.

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

6 Is anybody on the call or on the BlueJeans wishing
7 to testify?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you.
10 Public testimony is now closed.

11 Next, we'll move on to Maui Emergency Management
12 Agency. Herman.

13 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
14 Members. So with the -- with MEMA, the beginning of this
15 month marks the start of hurricane season, and so the season
16 will last until the end of November. Currently, there is a
17 hurricane that is brewing in the Eastern Pacific off the coast
18 of Mexico. Tropical Cyclone Blas became a hurricane yesterday
19 and is expected to be downgraded to a tropical storm on
20 Saturday and to a tropical depression on Monday. And this
21 should all take place before hitting the 140 longitude, which
22 is the line of demarcation for the Central Pacific Ocean, and
23 so this hurricane shouldn't be a threat to Hawaii. There's
24 another system that is brewing in the Eastern Pacific, and
25 that will also likely develop into a tropical depression. We

1 will continue to monitor both of these systems. I think I
2 reported the last time in our last meeting that the National
3 Weather Service predicted that there would be -- it would
4 be -- or they estimate about two to four systems that will
5 come over into the Central Pacific this year, so it will be
6 less than normal, less than, you know -- but really, all it
7 takes is just one hurricane to hit us, and that could be
8 devastating for us, so we treat every -- we treat every
9 hurricane, you know, very seriously and we monitor and, you
10 know, make sure that we're ready for these type of events.

11 And so because of that, we have been pushing
12 preparedness, and we've been -- there's been commercials on
13 TV. Currently, we have a running -- we are running a number
14 of commercials on TV. In one of those commercials, we do have
15 Deputy Chief Fujioka on there, so I wanted to thank the chief
16 for taking part in that. I hope some of you may have seen
17 that commercial playing. But we really want to push the
18 public to get their emergency kits ready, have a plan, and, of
19 course, being informed.

20 We also had a preparedness expo two weekends ago.
21 It was held at the Queen Kaahumanu Shopping Center, and we had
22 representatives from the fire department there, so I want to
23 thank the fire department for being there. They had -- they
24 had various materials regarding preparedness. They also did a
25 little demonstration with their fire extinguisher training.

1 So I just want to again thank the fire department for taking
2 part in our preparedness expo, and it was -- it was well
3 attended. With COVID coming back, it wasn't as well attended
4 as previous years, but because of COVID, I think we had a good
5 crowd there, so --

6 And then also, we just -- we just submitted all of
7 our investments for the Homeland Security Grant Program. The
8 fire department will be getting some monies for that, and I
9 can let them tell you about, you know, what kind of projects
10 that they're working on and how it will be funded through the
11 Homeland Security Grant Program. I'm trying to -- we may have
12 come across some monies, and so we're trying to divert some of
13 that to -- also to the fire department as well, so --

14 And lastly, we are continuing to work with our
15 remote incident command posts. We've met with -- we meet with
16 them monthly, we have monthly meetings with them, with the
17 RHCP, we call it, on Molokai, Lanai, and Hana. We're also
18 gonna be getting them had ham radios, base station ham radios,
19 so we'll be spending about -- close to \$20,000 and using
20 Homeland Security monies and using our operation monies to get
21 them with the ham radios. And the reason why for us that it's
22 important, they have other, like, modes of equipment -- as I
23 reported earlier, we did purchase video conferencing equipment
24 for them, but in the event that these communications go down,
25 then we can rely on the ham radios. And so we ran an exercise

1 last month, it was a statewide exercise, and we did have
2 participants from Lanai, they were able to call in, and so
3 that tested well. We're still trying to look for ham radio
4 operators. You need an FAA license in order to operate a ham
5 radio, and so we're still looking for operators on Molokai and
6 Hana, for that matter.

7 So that's all I have, Mr. Chair, pending any
8 questions.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you very much, Herman.

10 Does any commissioner have any questions for Herman?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIR GINOZA: Seeing none, I have a quick question.
13 How did you fare with the budget for fiscal '23?

14 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: We did -- actually, we did --
15 we did very well. And I do want to thank the administration
16 and the council members for recognizing the work that we do
17 and for supporting us. So we got everything that we needed,
18 you know, so we're very fortunate. And I think they
19 understand that, you know, that, you know, in order to
20 effectively deal with these emergencies, that we need -- we
21 need certain resources and whatnot, and so they were very
22 generous.

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Great to hear. Okay, thank
24 you. So I don't think anybody else has any questions, so
25 thank you very much, Herman.

1 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Next, Chief Ventura.

3 CHIEF VENTURA: Aloha, good morning. Thank you,
4 Chair Ginoza. Good to see you all here. The -- I'll go over
5 my handouts with (inaudible) report, and I'm starting with the
6 incidents. As we expected, the -- really, the only changes
7 that we're seeing is the uptick in brush fires. As expected,
8 during the summer, you know, we've been watching the weather a
9 lot, and Director Andaya mentioned hurricanes, although
10 they're unwanted, some of their passing showers with the
11 systems are much appreciated by us, so -- to keep things
12 greener.

13 We're doing pretty good on all training fronts. So
14 if you look at the next handout, the training front, a couple
15 of things that I'll concentrate on are the wildland training
16 in the left column. As you can see, that's been up due to us
17 doing the preparedness for our wildfire season. In the right
18 column, you'll see a captains' orientation as well as our
19 Incident Command Systems 300 and 400 classes. Those are all
20 officer development, professional development programs for our
21 officers. And then the last one I'll kind of highlight down
22 the right column on the bottom are command and control, which
23 is our blue card education, that is to do structure fire
24 command and control of incidents with multiple apparatus at a
25 scene. So we've last month put a big effort towards getting

1 everybody recertified and trained up on that, and so that's
2 why those numbers kind of peaked this past month.

3 The next handout is the monthly update. Some of
4 this we'll go over with Chief Fujioka's report, but this is
5 kind of a synopsis of the last month of April's incidents as
6 well as, you know, some other communications that we put out
7 to our members.

8 Moving into my monthly report, I'll highlight a few
9 things here. As you all know, (inaudible) did the blessing of
10 our helicopter, which is now in the training phase of this
11 project. The blessing was kind of a -- it was great to see,
12 you know, Chair Ginoza and Vice Chair Vares there, but the
13 blessing was just kind of a start of all the work that needs
14 to be done. And all of our members have been -- on the rescue
15 company have been training hard the last few weeks to get up
16 to speed. This is a new aircraft. This is a new piece of
17 equipment; it's a new way we're gonna be doing rescues and
18 operations, so they've been putting in literally hundreds of
19 hours getting all trained up on this.

20 We meet every Thursday with a variety of enforcement
21 agencies with the mayor except for the third Thursday of the
22 month, which is our commission meeting, and, you know, we
23 discuss various issues that are happening within the county
24 and how we can support each other as agencies because we might
25 have a tool that the other one's not familiar with. So those

1 can be valuable meetings when each agency might need help from
2 another, so we've been going through that weekly.

3 Council interactions, full council meeting, we met,
4 and they approved our license agreement for the Department of
5 Hawaiian Home Lands easement for the Ualapue Fire Station
6 Project. All these projects, Haiku, Ualapue, you know,
7 they're big, and there's so many moving parts that go along
8 with it, so what we're trying to do is just trying to report
9 out to you folks kind of where we are in the stages of things,
10 but they are several-year projects, obviously, that we'll keep
11 moving along.

12 One of the projects that you have maybe seen in the
13 news lately is the Olowalu Fire Station Project, and it's a
14 public-private partnership that will be, you know, hopefully,
15 able to work with the community and the public out there to
16 get the -- that fire station moving as well. They are doing a
17 pretty thorough fundraising effort to try to fundraise from
18 the community out there to provide the modular fire station
19 that's gonna go on the property that's being donated, so
20 that's great, all good things that we support.

21 We had a request from the infrastructure committee,
22 county council committee, to attend some -- a meeting based on
23 some roadways that they wanted to change, so we'll send our
24 fire prevention bureau to look at these changes, and so they
25 were -- they attended this meeting. Any time it's gonna

1 change the way traffic flows or the way we can access certain
2 areas or neighborhoods with our fire trucks, we want to
3 provide input to these committees.

4 And on the back of my report, several meetings there
5 that we attended, and we have been working with. I'll look at
6 the bottom two here. Wailea Community Association, they
7 approached us basically on a code that talks about the
8 barbecues and whether they're allowed to be -- where they're
9 allowed to be. And they have a lot of condos in Wailea, and
10 they have a lot of private individual owners who want to have
11 barbecues on their patios, and that's not allowed per the fire
12 code, so they approached us, and they were trying to look for
13 ways to work on it. So we're working with them to try to
14 establish ways that they can have barbecues on their
15 properties, but it's safe for everybody. When we have
16 multiple-family residences like a condo, we need to make sure
17 we protect all the people in the condo. When it's a single-
18 family residence, there's a lot of different rules, people can
19 put barbecues anywhere they want 'cause they're only affecting
20 their family, but when it comes to multiple occupancies or
21 multiple-family occupancies, then we have to make sure we
22 protect everybody and keep everybody safe.

23 And the last one was basically fireworks. So, you
24 know, our -- the county relies heavily on tourism. Part of
25 tourism is these large groups that come to the island and have

1 their annual conventions, and part of their convention is
2 having fireworks as their finale on their dinners in the
3 evening. At times they -- there are, you know, laws that
4 allow later fireworks, 4th of July and New Year's Eve, but the
5 rest of the year, there's county ordinances that they need to
6 follow. And so we're just trying to make sure that everybody
7 is within full time frames for fireworks shows and that they
8 put out notice if they can. Because fireworks, although legal
9 and they do them the right way, they affect homeowners, they
10 affect pet owners, they affect, you know, people that need to
11 wake up early the next morning and go to work. So we want to
12 work with them to make sure that their shows are timely,
13 they're within certain time constraints, and that they finish
14 everything by ten o'clock at the latest, which is the noise
15 ordinance, so that they're not affecting the public with their
16 fireworks displays. So there's some back and forth with them;
17 we're doing some research.

18 That concludes my report for today. Any questions
19 in particular?

20 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Ventura.

21 Any questions from commissioners about Chief
22 Ventura's report?

23 COMMISSIONER ANDRION: I had a question, Chief.
24 This is Commissioner Andrion. With your meeting with the
25 Wailea Association, did you -- did we discover that there were

1 any dwellings in violation of that code currently? And then
2 what -- what instruction or alternative was provided to them,
3 if so?

4 CHIEF VENTURA: Great question. So, Commissioner
5 Andrion, they're -- the way it kind of came up was the HOAs of
6 these condo units were starting to enforce the rules that have
7 been in place for several years. And that's when the
8 homeowners or the condo owners said, Well, we're gonna talk to
9 the fire department and change this. And this is a state
10 code, and this is not something that we're probably willing to
11 change. So the solutions are barbecues basically away from
12 the buildings, having a community barbecue place within the
13 condo area so that people can gather and barbecue detached
14 from the structures.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDRION: Got it. And then I was just
16 curious about the -- I know you just want to touch on it too,
17 but I was curious about the meeting regarding the dispatching
18 software. I wanted to see if you could just expound on that a
19 little bit, and is that affecting our current communications
20 right now in any means?

21 CHIEF VENTURA: Great question. So the software
22 that we -- that the police department uses, it's called CAD,
23 and it's run by a company called Hexagon. They manage it, and
24 they basically feed us information. The reason we requested
25 this meeting -- or, actually, police invited us to the meeting

1 was so that we, both police and fire, had worked with the
2 vendor to determine all the capabilities of the software to
3 make sure we can maximize what -- the tools that we have out
4 there because we don't know what tools are available until we
5 meet and learn about it. So that's really what this meeting
6 was about. It was just a surface meeting for us to kind of
7 gather what we're utilizing, what more they can do for us in
8 the future. But right now, we're not -- there's no shortfall
9 in our communications. We're getting what we need from
10 dispatch as far as our alarms and runs go; it's just how can
11 we build it out in the future to make it better?

12 COMMISSIONER ANDRION: Okay. Well, I know that
13 communication is important to this commission and the way we
14 support you, so I'm sure we'll all keep an eye out for that in
15 the future, future to come.

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you, Dylan.

17 Any other questions from commissioners?

18 VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

19 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Lisa.

20 VICE CHAIR VARES: Thanks, Chair.

21 Chief, I had a question kind of adding on to
22 Dylan's. First of all, I'm sorry, did I hear that -- is this
23 a new software or just updating the existing?

24 CHIEF VENTURA: It's just the current software that
25 we've been using for years.

1 VICE CHAIR VARES: Oh, okay. So kind of digging
2 into it a little bit deeper 'cause then how -- to make sure
3 that it's being used to its full potential?

4 CHIEF VENTURA: Yes.

5 VICE CHAIR VARES: Is there any -- is there any hope
6 in the future with the existing software and the existing
7 communication and dispatch setup that we have between fire and
8 police that the hurdle that was encountered previously when
9 trying to get the fire department accredited that had to do
10 with the dispatch service, how we were combined with police,
11 is there any hope that that could be overcome without
12 completely separating the two, or is it just a completely
13 different conversation to have another day?

14 CHIEF VENTURA: Good question. So as far as my
15 understanding of that accreditation bullet point that was not
16 met is the software is not going to resolve that issue, or no
17 software can resolve that issue. It would be something
18 greater than that. But we did discover that there's a --
19 there's a few things that can make it better, and there's also
20 some other things that we've been working with with our
21 preplanned software that we believe will be able to make this
22 software work better with. So, you know, kind of in digging a
23 little bit, we're finding out things to make things better as
24 well.

25 VICE CHAIR VARES: Great. Thank you so much.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Lisa.

2 Any other questions from commissioners?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, Deputy Chief
5 Fujioka.

6 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Good morning, Commissioners.
7 Thank you, Chair. Go over my monthly report, you know,
8 starting off with our firefighter trainees; we are set to
9 begin on June 27th with a class of 20 firefighter trainees.

10 Now, we worked with our R&D committee, you know,
11 we're starting to research a couple more items here. Looking
12 at different uniform pants, some hiking boots, and currently,
13 we are testing a new style of firefighting helmet, so that's
14 currently in the process of being researched -- actually,
15 testing now, so --

16 And then still review and revision of our current
17 SOGs. It's a live document, so we're always, you know,
18 working on it, trying to -- revising it.

19 Apparatus committee, as you guys remember, last
20 month I did my report from Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton.
21 We got the new engine for Hana and a new brush truck, mini
22 brush truck for Molokai. The notice to proceed has been sent,
23 so we're excited that those projects are kicked off. You
24 know, currently, the market for fire apparatus, as some of you
25 might know, is really -- especially for commercial chassis or,

1 you know, Ford, Peterbilt, or whatever it may be, including
2 some of the custom stuff, it's -- we're looking at a two- --
3 two- to almost three-year project. The lead times have just
4 been pushed out so far because of manufacturing delays, supply
5 and demand, and also the -- as we all know, there's a big
6 struggle with workforce throughout the United States, so we
7 are feeling it here also.

8 New Engine 8 and new Engine 13, that's for Lanai and
9 Kula. That meeting, I was up at Pierce Manufacturing. We
10 completed the preconstruction for those trucks, so those
11 trucks are on their way to being built. We should expect
12 those vehicles hopefully about the same time now in next year
13 of 2023. Mini 7, a new mini brush truck for Hana, has just
14 been completed. We have our mechanic and Assistant Chief
15 Gieseck will be flying up to Texas next week to do the final
16 inspection on that vehicle, and that vehicle should be on
17 island somewhere late July, early August. I just got a
18 notification from the Pasha Shipping Company that we can't get
19 our truck onto the barge until late July because they're
20 backlogged.

21 So union interactions, just currently working with
22 HGEA, ongoing consultation with them regarding our 4-10
23 schedules for our ocean safety personnel.

24 And just a couple letters from the public, thank you
25 letters, or letters of appreciation. A member saw our

1 helicopters working at the most recent brush fire here at The
2 Dunes at Maui Lani. He was out coaching his baseball team,
3 was very impressed by the work with our pilots out there, so
4 he sent a letter of appreciation. And also, a woman in Kihei
5 sent an email thanking our Wailea ladder crew, who assisted
6 her and her cat during a recent structure fire at Kihei
7 Regency Apartments.

8 And that concludes my report. I'll answer any
9 questions if you guys have anything.

10 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Fujioka.

11 Any questions from commissioners?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIR GINOZA: I have a question about the 4-10s so
14 I don't know if you brought it up to the commission before,
15 but what is -- how much more personnel would you need to get
16 to cover the shifts if you went from 5-8s to -- maybe it's not
17 the appropriate time to ask, but I just (inaudible) would
18 ask -- would address it later, but (inaudible).

19 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah, Chair, I'm gonna -- we can
20 definitely answer there. There is a ratio that we use. I'm
21 gonna give Operations Manager Kayama a shot at the PowerPoint
22 first. He might actually cover that because I see some of it
23 in his PowerPoint.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay.

25 CHIEF VENTURA: If he doesn't, then we can answer

1 that question afterwards based on the formula that we came up
2 with.

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

4 Any questions from any commissioners?

5 COMMISSIONER ALCON: (Gesturing.)

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Punahele.

7 COMMISSIONER ALCON: I don't know if this is the
8 time to ask it, but since we're talking about staffing, so at
9 the last meeting, we had a testifier, Mahina Poepoe, who, you
10 know, did a really good recap about how she felt about the
11 Pukoo Fire Station, and she suggested three personnel be
12 stationed there. I think she said a captain, a driver, and a
13 regular firefighter or something. And it's not the first time
14 I've heard that because Max suggested it a couple of meetings
15 ago. And I just feel like she testified and it just kind of
16 dropped, so what happens? Because it was a good suggestion,
17 not the first time it was brought up in one of these meetings,
18 so does somebody write it down and consider it and -- and try
19 to, you know -- because I spoke to other firefighters on
20 Molokai, and they said that that is the ideal. So if a lot of
21 people are feeling that way, what can be done to address that
22 suggestion? Because it sounds like it was a good suggestion,
23 you know. And we say it's budgetary constraints, but we're
24 buying, you know, million-dollar fire trucks and all of this
25 stuff, so is there something that can be done to put three

1 firefighters down at Pukoo?

2 CHIEF VENTURA: Chair, I can answer that, Chair.

3 If we can get five firefighters on every fire truck,
4 we'd be happier. It's safety in numbers for us, so we totally
5 support it. The last administration -- no, two
6 administrations ago, several times it was asked through the
7 budget process to make Pukoo Fire Station a full-staffed
8 station; it wasn't successful. So this year, we took a
9 different approach. As you well know, we wanted to change
10 that firefighter 1 to a captain so that we can have the right
11 leadership out there.

12 And I can't answer -- maybe for clarification, the
13 testimony that came last month kind of alluded towards under
14 trained personnel at that station, but that's not the case. A
15 person isn't qualified per the CBA to be a captain until they
16 make ten years. So I could have the best firefighter 1 in the
17 world, I can't make him a captain. I can't; I just can't. So
18 we cannot -- so nobody there is under trained for the position
19 that they fill. It's just the positions that are there, and
20 the work that we're requiring them to do is above that
21 position. I don't have to explain that too much more, I don't
22 think, but -- so what we -- what we kind of planned to do, I
23 guess, in the long run, is to maybe revisit expanding that
24 station. To reallocate from a firefighter 1 to a captain
25 is -- it costs money, but it doesn't expand the positions in

1 the department. When we expand positions in the department,
2 the council and the mayor have to, you know, consider a lot
3 more things. For us, it was about safety, and let's get the
4 right person in the seat to make sure that people are safe out
5 there in Pukoo. We can look at in the next budget process to
6 add that -- maybe we'll go small, add one firefighter. One
7 thing we definitely have to keep in mind here is the station
8 that we're looking to grow into, it's a three-bedroom house
9 that probably won't house a five-man crew, so it's just
10 something we have to make sure we right-size things for what
11 we're able to fit into right now.

12 Does that answer your question?

13 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Yes, thank you.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Any other questions from
15 commissioners?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you.
18 Next, Chief Lindo.

19 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Chair, good morning,
20 Commissioners. Can you guys hear me all right?

21 COMMISSIONERS: (Gesturing.)

22 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: All right.

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes.

24 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: My report is -- should be
25 real short. Basically, the first report is the number of

1 incidents that we got. So on the fire and ocean safety,
2 there's a breakdown of the type of incidents, major incidents,
3 yeah, when we're dealing with multiple companies. Something
4 that I want to highlight is on May 2nd, we had that missing
5 hiker, yeah, so operationally, what we want to do when we've
6 got good, confirmed, reliable information of missing parties,
7 we want to throw everything that we can at it, and we want to
8 give a good 72-hour window of searching, and then at the end
9 of 72 hours, if nothing's found, we want to have a close-out
10 meeting with the family, let them know the things that we did
11 and the resources that we used, and then kind of close out and
12 let them know we'll be ending our search unless we get new
13 information on this incident. About a week later, after we
14 closed out, we did have new information, which allowed us to
15 throw on another day, so we were able to provide support and
16 give the best effort that we could. Of course, we weren't
17 able to find the missing party, but -- but just so that way
18 you guys know, yeah, when there's some kind of missing person,
19 we want to give 72 hours, and if we can't find them, then any
20 new information, we'll do our best to provide on top of that.

21 On the next page, as far as the training goes, you
22 see the upcoming recruit class that's huge starting at the end
23 of the month that new recruit class. Right now, as we speak,
24 we are doing the assessments of the previous recruit class,
25 and basically, it's -- they're closing out their one-year

1 probation. And if they make it past this assessment and
2 everything looks good, then the title of recruit no longer
3 stays on them, and they become firefighters, yeah. So we're
4 doing that as we speak.

5 Heli ops training making sure that our personnel and
6 the new helicopter is ready come July 1st.

7 And then ocean safety. This week, awesome, we're
8 graduating ten ocean safety recruits. We're making a push,
9 July 1st, right around the corner, so we want to move full
10 steam ahead, and the open positions that we have, ocean safety
11 and fire, we want to make sure that we push forward. So these
12 are the equipment that we have on ocean safety. We've got jet
13 skis on island as we speak, ready to get rolled out as soon as
14 we get everything that it needs. There's two UTVs actually
15 getting sent to us, so hopefully, it gets on island.

16 And that's pretty much it. You guys have any
17 questions that I can answer?

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Lindo.

19 Any questions from commissioners?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Seeing none, thank you very
22 much.

23 Chief Giese.

24 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: I have a question.

25 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, sorry. Go ahead, Max.

1 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: In the past, Chief Ventura
2 was talking about the use of drones to see where they can be
3 quite a boon on the ocean safety side too. Is anything coming
4 of those drones' situation? We gonna see any of that?

5 (Inaudible comment.)

6 CHIEF VENTURA: Thanks for the question. Yes, it
7 appears that come July 1, we will have funding for our drone
8 program. So we have done some research on the ocean safety
9 side; there are some drones that are actually capable of
10 falling into the ocean and still flying away. So, you know,
11 when we're dealing with doing rescues over water, that gives
12 you that little added protection for a piece of equipment. So
13 we're looking at a variety of drones for the drone program.
14 But once the budget is passed and it's a bill, and we get
15 that, hopefully in, like, a week and a half or so, then we're
16 definitely ready to start that program up for sure.

17 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Thank you.

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Chief Ventura, how did your budget
19 fare through the process?

20 CHIEF VENTURA: Thanks, Chair. The -- this year's
21 budget was very favorable for us. As far as our needs go,
22 they were fulfilled. And if you had time to follow any of the
23 council meetings, some of the council members actually added a
24 few things that we didn't even request to support our
25 department. So we're very grateful for that, for the

1 administration's support as well as the council's support.
2 This upcoming year's budget, we have the tools that our
3 department members have requested to, you know, continue doing
4 what we're doing for the community.

5 CHAIR GINOZA: That's great. Thank you.

6 Thank you, Chief Lindo.

7 Any other questions?

8 COMMISSIONER BURNS: (Gesturing.)

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Dwight. Oh, no question?

10 COMMISSIONER BURNS: (Gesturing.)

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Chief Giese.

12 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: All righty. My report will
13 be short as well. I'm just gonna hit some of the things I
14 feel are probably of the most interest to the commission.
15 Starting with our prevention bureau, since you just mentioned
16 next year's budget, we did get some funding for expansion
17 positions for a second captain and another plans reviewer, so
18 our building maintenance repair person has been working on
19 constructing some office space there. We had kind of an area
20 in the facility that could accommodate some new offices, so
21 he's been out there working, making good progress. And
22 incidentally, we got funding for a second building maintenance
23 repair person because it only takes one project like this, and
24 they basically pay for themselves for a good chunk of the
25 year, so we've been really happy with that.

1 As you can see, training and public education is
2 starting to get multiple bullet points now. For a while, that
3 was a blank field in the report. So we're resuming more of
4 that. Some of those have already been mentioned, so I won't
5 go over any more details on this.

6 There is a problem we've been having, we've reported
7 before, with our SCBAs. So SCBA, in case anyone's forgotten,
8 is self-contained breathing apparatus. That's the pack and
9 the bottle of air that our firefighters bring with them into a
10 fire so that they can actually, you know, breathe. And
11 they're expensive, it takes a while to get them, and they've
12 got to be specific. We need to -- we can't have multiple
13 different versions out there, and some firefighter who's used
14 to one gets relocated to another station, has an emergency,
15 and, you know, the parts of the apparatus aren't in the same
16 location, or they don't have all of the same functionality.
17 So we -- last time I believe I reported -- at least it was in
18 the report that we had some more errors that were being
19 corrected and new ones were being shipped. And new ones were
20 shipped, and they were still wrong, so it's kind of an ongoing
21 issue we're having. But it's getting worked out; it's getting
22 addressed. It's just been one of those things that's
23 frustrating for us. We don't want to share only good news
24 with the commission. We've gotta, every now and then, share
25 some of the struggles we're having.

1 We have begun station inspections. So our health
2 and safety bureau, now that it's fully staffed, has the
3 ability to get out there and do safety compliance inspections,
4 which is an important part of their function. So they've
5 started that, and we've identified some issues that are being
6 addressed, so that that's great, that makes that process worth
7 it.

8 Fire Two already mentioned R&D, research, and
9 development; that's something our health and safety bureau
10 works with as well. It's a really important process to make
11 sure that when we do allocate significant funds and we get
12 large numbers of new equipment like -- whether it's fire
13 helmets, gloves, boots, it's exactly what we want and not just
14 what, you know, somebody thought would be a great idea. So we
15 have this process now to help ensure that everything we get is
16 the best available given what our needs are and what our
17 budget is. So it's been good that that process has been
18 working for us.

19 On the CIP, not a whole lot of developments here.
20 The facility assessment project, we're just waiting on the
21 final signature for that contract, so that's just about done,
22 and we'll have some professionals going out to our facilities
23 to identify, you know, long-term needs that we need to
24 anticipate so we're more proactive and not reactive. We did
25 have a personnel fly over to Hoolehua Station to meet with the

1 contractor there to do more planning for the project, you
2 know, the expansion and the carport addition there to help
3 provide shelter for additional apparatus, so there was some
4 movement there. And not much else to report on that front.

5 I would like to mention, as I -- as you may know, we
6 did have one of our ocean safety officers passed away last
7 month. His name was Randy Hill, and he worked out at Baldwin
8 Beach Park. This last Sunday, we had the paddle out and
9 ceremony, celebration of life for him. And I just wanted to
10 report it was -- it was so well attended, and everything
11 really -- really went off very well. The department did
12 assist the family. We did a procession. The police helped us
13 with a procession from Kahului Harbor down to Kanaha Beach
14 Park, and then the honor guard participated in the ceremony
15 there on the beach. And then Windward Aviation was kind
16 enough to do a flower drop from their helicopter at no charge
17 when folks went to paddle out and scatter the ashes. And
18 everything went really well; it was a great way to send off
19 Officer Hill, and -- and, yeah.

20 You know, right now, it's nearing the end of our
21 fiscal year, and so we're just kind of in high rev mode to
22 wrap up our end-of-year purchases and then get started on next
23 fiscal year.

24 That's all I had to report.

25 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Giese.

1 Any questions from commissioners?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, thank you very
4 much, Chief Giese.

5 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: You're welcome.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Chief Ventura, would you like to
7 introduce our presenter, please?

8 CHIEF VENTURA: Certainly. So as presenter today,
9 we have Ocean Safety Manager Cary Kayama. He's gonna give an
10 overview of our ocean safety bureau. And his daily
11 responsibilities for the bureau right now are to basically
12 manage operations. On the fire side, it's really easy; we
13 have a set schedule. If you know you're first watch, second
14 watch, or third watch, you know what day you're coming in for
15 the next two to three years, the schedule's set. On the ocean
16 safety side, currently dealing with sixty-some-odd personnel,
17 soon to be nearly 90 to 100, that schedule changes every week,
18 people will call in sick, there is -- there's a lot of human
19 management to do, and he does a great job with that as one of
20 his responsibilities.

21 So without further ado, Mr. Cary Kayama.

22 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Hi. Good morning, Chair and
23 Committee Members. My name's Cary Kayama; I'm the operation
24 manager for ocean safety. I have a little PowerPoint. Let me
25 see if I can share my screen with you guys, and then we'll go

1 from there. Let me know if everything -- you guys can see my
2 screen. How's it going? You guys can see my screen?

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Not yet.

4 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Not yet? I'll click on this
5 thing one more time. Share.

6 CHIEF VENTURA: Cary, do you have two screens, two
7 monitors?

8 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Yeah, I --

9 CHAIR GINOZA: There we go. We see it now.

10 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Okay. You guys can see this one
11 right here, the whole PowerPoint?

12 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes.

13 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Yes.

14 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Okay, cool. Yep. So this is
15 one of our towers out in Makena, and what we did right now --
16 is that working right there? Okay. So --

17 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Go to presenter view.

18 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Presenter view, where is that
19 at?

20 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Click on the thing that
21 looks like a screen near the bottom right of your window, of
22 the PowerPoint window is one way to do it.

23 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Presenter view.

24 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Right there. Slide show.
25 Sorry, slide show.

1 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Slide show.

2 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Yeah.

3 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: This one, right?

4 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: There you are. Yes.

5 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Okay. Yeah, I clicked it, and
6 it's not coming up. Oh, my PowerPoint is clicking up on my --
7 on my second -- my second computer.

8 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: You've gotta drag it over.

9 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Yeah. Let me try it one more
10 time and see --

11 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: There we go. Well, kinda.

12 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Okay. All right, you guys?

13 Okay. So is that working now? You guys can see this?

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes.

15 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Yes.

16 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Okay. So this is orientation to
17 the ocean safety bureau. What we'll cover is our structure.
18 I'm not sure if you guys kind of know much about ocean safety,
19 but we'll cover the structure, beach and tower locations, and
20 our operations, and then what do lifeguards do and some of the
21 training that our guards go through each year.

22 So first question I have is -- for you guys is:
23 What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear
24 the word lifeguard? Anybody? Lifeguard, anything pop in your
25 mind? No? Okay.

1 COMMISSIONER ANDRION: I think of the word hero.

2 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Hero, hey, right on. Thank you
3 so much. Yeah, yeah. I know something about, oh, Baywatch,
4 you know, Mitch Buchannon, you know, Pamela Anderson and stuff
5 like that, but yeah. So, you know, a lot of times, people
6 think about the beach, the ocean, guys cruising around in
7 board shorts and stuff like that, but, you know, we're a
8 little bit more than that.

9 So first thing we'll do, we'll cover structure. So
10 as you can kind of see at the top, it says OSB Chief;
11 currently, it's vacant. Chief Giese was promoted to
12 assistant chief back in, I think so, January, so since then,
13 I've been sitting in this office kind of -- kind of alone a
14 little bit, but this is our structure. So right now --
15 normally under the battalion chief or the chief position,
16 there would be the -- our service staff assistant, and there
17 would be me, operation manager, and then the training captain.
18 But right now, since the vacant -- the position is vacant,
19 basically, I'm kind of overseeing Emme, which is our service
20 staff assistant, you know, Emme Cabacungan. She does a lot.
21 Then we have Trainee Captain Zach Edlao and our Training
22 Lieutenant John Kaneshina. They're just finishing up our
23 recruit class of ten. Tomorrow they'll be doing our little
24 ceremony, our graduation, at the Kahului Station.

25 And then underneath me, I have five more captains

1 for five of the districts. So North Captain would be Keola
2 Brown, that includes Kanaha Beach Park and Baldwin Beach Park.
3 Kanaha Beach Park, we have two towers, and Baldwin, they have
4 one tower. And then next would be the Hookipa Captain, this
5 is John Seitz, he manages Hookipa Beach Park, which has two
6 towers. And then next would be South Captain Kekai Brown.
7 Actually, Kekai and Keola, they're husband and wife. Kekai
8 manages the Kamaole Beaches. I'm sure you guys all have
9 probably been there once or twice for a birthday party or just
10 a dip in the ocean, but Kamaole I has a tower, Kamaole II has
11 a tower, and Kamaole III has a tower, so he manages three
12 beaches with three towers. Then up on the west side, we have
13 West Captain Michael Sparling; he manages two beaches, which
14 is Hanakao Beach Park and D.T. Fleming's up on the upper west
15 side.

16 And then we have Makena, Makena is a state-funded
17 beach, so to speak, provides funding, and then the county
18 manages the lifeguard services at Makena. We have Brad
19 Quinto, and he has two towers, one at first entrance and one
20 at second entrance. I think, you know, we need to kind of
21 rethink Makena and hopefully request more money to possibly
22 put three towers. The beach is so big and crowded that I
23 think so two towers might not be enough, as well as some of
24 our other beaches.

25 But that's pretty much our structure. We kind of --

1 our call signs kind of -- was kind of a little crazy back in
2 the day, so we kind of updated right before the transfer to
3 fire, but -- so North Captain Keola Brown, back in the day, I
4 think so, the captain position was like OS8 or normally LG8,
5 and Kanaha was, like, LG10 or something, but we kind of
6 attached some of the towers and the captains to the nearest
7 fire station. So Kahului District, you know, Engine 10 and
8 Rescue 10, you know, Tanker 10, so Keola's call sign is OS10,
9 that way, it's not confusing. You know, like fire's Engine
10 10, Ocean Safety, OS10 is the captain, and then you've got
11 Kanaha Beach Park. You have LG10 as the lieutenant at the
12 beach, you have Tower 10, the guy sitting the tower, and
13 you've got JS10. It kind of makes sense for dispatchers,
14 police and fire, you know, like, okay, Engine 10 is
15 responding, so that's the Captain OS10. Kind of like for
16 Hookipa is the same scenario where the captain is OS2, that's
17 in Engine 2 station, Paia station, so Engine 2, OS2, we got
18 LG2 and JS2. It's actually 2 Bravo because Baldwin Beach, but
19 we kind of, like, name the beaches according to the fire
20 station, and that way, it doesn't get too confusing.

21 So that's our structure. Any questions about our
22 structure?

23 (No response.)

24 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Nope? Okay. So next would be
25 our operations. So we work seven days a week, 365 days a

1 year, depending on leap year. Our hours are from 0800 to 1645
2 each day. With this coming budget, the fiscal year 2023, we
3 requested expansion positions to extend lifeguard hours, you
4 know, from 0800 to 1645. We want to go to 4-10s. Right now,
5 the budget looks good, I think, so, you know, the council
6 supported it, I think so, the mayor will -- you know, he
7 approved it, council approved it, I think, so it's moving
8 forward, so we will have extra positions to move forward with
9 the 4-10s. It'll take some time because we've gotta do the
10 training and stuff like that and come up with a schedule, but,
11 you know, that's our goal.

12 As far as hours go, we're not sure if we're gonna
13 have to change the hours from winter and summer because
14 winter, it gets darker, so we can't have our guards working
15 till 7:00-8:00 at night during the winter hours. But
16 summertime, you know, the sun's out a lot longer, so, you
17 know, we want to be able to have our guards work closer to
18 sunset during the summertime because, you know, people are
19 still in the water and at the beaches. So that's something
20 that we need to negotiate with the union and find out what's
21 the best hours of service. But with this 4-10 days, you know,
22 it'll provide two additional hours of lifeguard coverage, so
23 this definitely help increase public safety, it'll allow us to
24 respond with our skis, you know, past 4:45 instead of having
25 fire department having to, you know, launch their jet ski or

1 their boat or their helicopter, you know. We'll be on our
2 beaches with our skis available all the way up to, you know,
3 maybe 6:45-7:45. It's something that we need to work on, but
4 that's pretty much our operations right now.

5 Any questions in regards to this part?

6 (No response.)

7 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: No? Okay. So next is: What do
8 lifeguards do? So the picture on the left, that's Makena
9 State Beach, that's actually New Year's Day of this year post
10 or just at the end of the pandemic. You guys can see how busy
11 it is on New Year's Day. That's only half the beach. And
12 then the picture on the right, it is Puu Kekaa/Black Rock. So
13 this is pre-pandemic, but this is what we're trying to do for
14 our 2023 budgets. We put in funding to put a tower near Black
15 Rock. So far, it looks good, and that -- that project, we put
16 in nine and a half positions so we can have 4-10 days there to
17 have appropriate coverage each day. But this is what we kind
18 of deal with day in/day out, you know, a lot of people on the
19 beaches.

20 So pretty what we do each day is, you know, we try
21 to prevent injury, so our primary responsibility is public
22 safety. So we usually -- by doing that, we -- you know, good
23 surveillance, watching who's coming and going on the beach,
24 people dragging their body boards on the beach, pale skin, you
25 know that, okay, this is a visitor, we need to talk to them.

1 We do a lot of preventative actions. We have our PA systems
2 which works really well so instead of, you know, talking to
3 each person individually, we can talk to a bunch of people at
4 the same time, you know, 30 to 100 people at the same time,
5 warn them of the dangerous shorebreak and warn them of the rip
6 current or the wind picking up, please put your umbrellas
7 away. So stuff like that we do constantly all day long. Some
8 people might get annoyed by the PA announcements, but, you
9 know, we want to try to educate the people. So with the PA
10 system and by our just face to face, we can talk to them and
11 educate them about the dangers.

12 Another thing that's education, you know, our Junior
13 Lifeguard Program. We had to suspend the program for two
14 years due to the pandemic, but this would be our first year
15 since then running the program. This year's program is a
16 little modified. We usually would run five sessions, North
17 Shore, South Shore, West Shore, five sessions, but this year
18 we're just doing three sessions just to kind of start off the
19 program. We weren't sure how bad the cases would be. We want
20 to keep our -- our children safe, so we're just kind of
21 running a smaller, scaled-down version of the program, and
22 instead of having 15 kids, we're doing 12 kids. And we did
23 not run the Molokai, Lanai, and Hana programs too because, you
24 know, we didn't want to intrude in these locations because of
25 the pandemic, and we weren't sure how the community would feel

1 if we came in, you know, outsiders running a program. So
2 we're gonna have to kind of give it another year to figure out
3 how the program would run this summer and expand our program
4 next year.

5 And then our lifeguards not only are stationed at
6 just the beaches or respond to our beaches, we actually have
7 UTVs, ATVs, which is quads, basically on the beach so we can
8 respond outside of the beach parks. The captains have a
9 truck, and we have rescue skis. The rescue skis will respond
10 outside of the beaches, a couple miles to the left, several
11 miles to the right, and a mile to even two miles offshore if
12 we need to. So, you know, we do a lot not just on our
13 beaches.

14 And then -- so areas of responsibility. So this is
15 district captains, you know, oversees the district. So
16 let's -- for instance, west side, the west captain -- excuse
17 me. So the west captain basically covers the whole west side
18 of Maui from the scenic lookout all the way to Nakalele Point,
19 which is huge. I'm not sure how much miles that is of
20 coastline, but it's really huge. And we have only two beach
21 parks, Hanakaoo and D.T. Flemming, so our skis at our beaches
22 will respond either way as far as a ski will respond at
23 Flemming, so go all the way to Nakalele or to Kahakuloa, and
24 our skis will respond from Hanakaoo all the way to the scenic
25 lookout. So that's our area of responsibility as far as the

1 captains and the jet ski operations.

2 Beach lieutenants will oversee operations at the
3 beach. So basically, if you -- they go to work, they have
4 somebody there who's basically in charge of the beach and the
5 staffing there. And then at the beach, we'll have a jet ski
6 operator, we'll assign a jet ski operator each day -- actually
7 two, because we want two guys on the ski, one as a driver and
8 one as a crew member. And then we have our tower guards, and
9 our tower guards basically watch the beach. And that's even
10 the responsibilities of the lieutenant, jet ski operator, and
11 tower guard; they basically do beach surveillance, public
12 safety contact, but, you know, the lieutenant is overall in
13 charge. The operator will respond via jet ski if we need to.
14 So that's pretty much our responsibilities on a daily basis.

15 And then this is our training and qualifications.
16 We have a ten-week recruit training which involves emergency
17 medical responder, EMR, which fire uses their cadre to train
18 our guys. We go over CPR. We do first aid, ATV/UTV training,
19 a few days of rescue watercraft training. We have our USLA
20 training. So these are the stuff that we cover during our
21 recruit class and also annually, and, you know, not including
22 some of the other requirements by the county like EEO
23 training, violence in the workplace, stuff like that, so --
24 but that's basically what we train our guards in each year.

25 So this is what our guys do each and every single

1 year when they get hired. They need to complete a
2 hundred-yard run and a hundred-yard swim within 25 minutes or
3 less. This is mandatory. If you fail this, you can lose your
4 job. And then we need to do a 500-meter pool swim within ten
5 minutes. Another -- we need to run a hundred yards, swim a
6 hundred yards, run a hundred yards within three minutes or
7 less. And finally, we need to do a 400-yard paddle board
8 within four minutes or less. So this is the requirements that
9 we've put into place through the United States Lifesaving
10 Association. They're our umbrella as far as training goes and
11 accreditation, you know. They oversee our program, and they
12 allow us to be certified under them if we meet these
13 requirements. So every single guard comes to our program from
14 18 years old to sixty -- what, our oldest guy is 65 years old,
15 we all do this every single year. And if we don't, we'll be
16 put on light duty until we can pass. And then, if we don't
17 pass, then we could basically be terminated. So, you know,
18 the ocean does not discriminate, but, you know, we need to be
19 prepared, so we hold our guards to a high standard.

20 Also, we'll do cross-training with fire, Coast
21 Guard, other emergency services. So this is one of our
22 SARS -- pre-SARS training with the Coast Guard, a search and
23 rescue exercise we did off of, what was that, Thousand -- not
24 Thousand Peaks, but Olowalu area, which was successful. But
25 this is some of the training that we do. And I think so by

1 cross-training with other departments, it just kind of helps
2 us knowing each other's capabilities and being able to depend
3 on each other when someone's in distress. So, you know, it's
4 been a valuable training for all of us.

5 And then this is back in the day, about 25 years
6 ago. That's our tower back in the day. It was a little
7 bird's nest. You know, back in the day, people look at --
8 look at us with, you know, beach boys and stuff like that, but
9 that's what we dealt with back in the past is -- it's kind of
10 comical, but that's where we came from. And this is kind of
11 where we're at today and, you know, with the support of the
12 mayor, council, and now we're under the fire department, like,
13 things has changed a lot. And, you know, I thank the chief
14 and the fire, the administration, and everyone for their
15 support, because we came a long way, and I appreciate their
16 help.

17 And thank you so much. Any questions?

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

19 Any questions from commissioners?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIR GINOZA: I don't see any.

22 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Oh, great.

23 CHAIR GINOZA: (Inaudible.)

24 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Thank you.

25 CHAIR GINOZA: I guess you're complete since nobody

1 has any questions.

2 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Yeah, that's good. So now I
3 need to unshare my screen.

4 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Can I say something? I don't
5 have a question; I just want you to know that that was an
6 excellent presentation, and thank you.

7 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Oh, yeah. Thank you. Thank
8 you. So sorry, but can someone help me unshare my screen?
9 Where --

10 MS. WAKAMATSU: There should be an X at the top of
11 your screen, Kai. Like towards the top, there should be a bar
12 with --

13 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Let me see. Yeah, I -- sorry,
14 guys. Okay, good.

15 MS. WAKAMATSU: There you go.

16 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Good. I think I got it.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Yeah. Thank you so much.

18 VICE CHAIR VARES: I have a quick question. Sorry.

19 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Lisa.

20 VICE CHAIR VARES: That was an excellent
21 presentation, by the way, which is why nobody really has any
22 questions to ask.

23 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Thank you.

24 VICE CHAIR VARES: On -- at Black Rock at Puu Kekaa,
25 where is the new station -- or pardon me, the new tower gonna

1 be or -ish?

2 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Yeah, that was a challenge. So
3 one big challenge was finding a location. So, you know,
4 ideally, you want a tower on the beach, on the sand, at Puu
5 Kekaa as close as you can, but because of the beach erosion,
6 it changes throughout the year. Wintertime, a lot of times
7 when we've got the big west swells, it moves the sand from
8 fronting the Sheraton and Black Rock, it moves down toward,
9 you know, Kaanapali toward the -- whatever hotel is down
10 there, like Kaanapali Beach Hotel, you know.

11 VICE CHAIR VARES: Sure.

12 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: The Hyatt area or whatever. You
13 know, it moves, so then sometimes there's no sand on the
14 beach. So what we need -- we needed to do, we worked with the
15 Sheraton, we looked at some locations on their property, and
16 the best location we found -- we found about two to three
17 locations, but the best location would be -- was at the corner
18 of the Sheraton right next to the beach pathway by their luau
19 and the Kaanapali Beach Hotel. There's a little pathway right
20 there, that's the best location we found because we needed to
21 stage our quad, our ATV near the tower, and the jet ski there
22 'cause that's the only location where the ski would be able to
23 launch from the beach all year round. 'Cause if the tower is
24 closer to Puu Kekaa, we would have to run down the beach to
25 where the ski is at and then launch it from that location. So

1 we wanted to stage everything in one location, and that was
2 the best location. And that's probably close to, I'd say,
3 maybe 150 to 200 yards away from Puu Kekaa. A lot farther
4 than we wanted it to be, but I think so that would be the best
5 location for us.

6 VICE CHAIR VARES: Great. Thank you.

7 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Thank you.

8 VICE CHAIR VARES: Thank you very much.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Any other questions from
10 commissioners?

11 COMMISSIONER BURNS: (Gesturing.)

12 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Dwight.

13 COMMISSIONER BURNS: I'd just like to echo my fellow
14 commissioners and say it was a great presentation. Thank you
15 for the presentation. I just have one quick question. For
16 you guys' equipment like the jet skis, quads, the ATVs, and
17 stuff like that, when you guys do the turnaround when getting
18 new stuff, what do you guys do with the old stuff? Do you
19 guys decommission it, keep a couple for, like, backups, or
20 does it go out to auction?

21 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Great question, Dwight. It's
22 been a struggle to get equipment throughout the years,
23 especially when we were under parks and recreation. When we
24 came to fire, we were able to kind of beef up our equipment,
25 our inventory. So what we do each year, we -- ideally, we

1 would want to get three skis and three ATVs or quads each
2 year, and what we do is we'll recycle them through training.
3 'Cause during training, we need skis and quads to certify our
4 guys. So a lot of times, it takes about five years to replace
5 a ski; by then, the ski is on its last legs, so a lot of
6 times, we'll run it through our training program for a couple
7 years, and by then, it's, like, not even worth repairing even,
8 or our quads. I'd say in three years, the undercarriage, the
9 frame of it will completely rust away where it'll just
10 basically break in half, and it's no longer usable. So most
11 of the stuff is basically rubbish, and we've gotta throw them
12 away after three to five years. But, you know, in the past,
13 we tried to auction it off, but a lot of times no one would
14 buy it or if they did, like I know guys bought some for a
15 hundred bucks, but it cost too much money for them to fix, so
16 basically they didn't fix it at all. But, you know, it's
17 something we can look into in the future. I'm not sure if
18 auctioning off would be the best thing, but, you know, it'll
19 provide the county additional funding.

20 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Thank you.

21 OS MANAGER KAYAMA: Thank you.

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Any other questions?

23 (No response.)

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you very much. That was
25 excellent.

1 So the next meeting date we have is next month, July
2 21st at 10:00 a.m. via BlueJeans. Maybe by the next meeting,
3 we'll have a full slate of commissioners; we'll see. But
4 thank you, everyone, for hanging in there, all commissioners
5 and persons of the public. Thank you for your time and your
6 support, and we'll see you next month. So it is 11:11, and
7 I'd like to adjourn the fire and public safety commission
8 meeting today. Good day.

9 (The proceedings were adjourned at 11:11 a.m.)

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I, Sandra J. Gran, Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of Hawaii, hereby certify that on June 16, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., the proceedings was taken down by me in machine shorthand and was thereafter reduced to typewritten form under my supervision; that the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings had in the foregoing matter.

I further certify that I am not an attorney for any of the parties hereto, nor in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED this 27th day of June, 2022, in Maui, Hawaii.

Sandra L. Gro

Sandra J. Gran, RPR
Hawaii CSR 424